

House Bill 335  
March 17, 2011  
Presented by Jim Kropp  
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of House Bill 335.

In many cases where a person is convicted of wildlife violations and loses their hunting, fishing and trapping privileges, they still go afield during these recreation seasons, accompanying friends or family hunting and fishing in spite of the restriction on their own activities. In some cases, this is not an issue as long as they refrain from hunting, fishing, or trapping. However, there are those cases when a person commits such egregious violations resulting in privileges loss that they should not be allowed to be afield. We have encountered situations where convicted and suspended wildlife violators use the ability to accompany others in the field as a means to circumvent their suspension. This has occurred on a number of occasions and HB335 attempts to curtail this activity. HB335 gives judges discretion to impose this additional penalty, if deemed appropriate by nature of the violation, to keep an individual out of the field for the duration of the individual's privilege suspension. We believe this will be an important tool for judges to use should the circumstances merit it, when substantial wildlife violations have occurred.